

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

**Amendments to the Specification:**

The paragraph on page 15, beginning at line 7, has been amended as follows:

--In one embodiment, the ~~matric~~ matrix material includes an aliphatic acid component, for example, as aliphatic acid component which includes aliphatic acid molecules having about 18 or about 28 to about 36 carbon atoms. A particularly useful aliphatic acid component is montanic acid, nominally  $C_{28}H_{56}O_2$ . Suitable aliphatic acid components, for example, montanic acids, preferably have melting points from about  $76^{\circ}C$  to about  $87^{\circ}C$ , more preferably about  $76^{\circ}C$  to about  $81^{\circ}C$ . In one useful embodiment, the aliphatic acid component has a melting point of at least about  $80^{\circ}C$  or at least about  $82^{\circ}C$ .--

The paragraph on page 15, beginning at line 18, has been amended as follows:

--In a preferred embodiment, the aliphatic acid component, for example, ~~monanic~~ montanic acid, may also be esterified to form an acid ester wax, e.g., a montanic acid ester wax. The aliphatic acid ester wax preferably has a predominant ingredient of esters of about  $C_{20}$  to about  $C_{30}$  fatty acids, including montanic acid.--